Expedited Procedure - Group Art Unit: 3739

Application No. 10806995

Filed: March 23, 2004 Attorney Docket No.: 21819-194U

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 11 and 35 as indicated.

Please cancel Claim 10 as indicated, without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inflating and deflating a catheter having an

expandable membrane, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a target pressure for inflation of the expandable membrane;

positioning the expandable membrane within a portion of a cardiovascular system;

controllably inflating the expandable membrane to at least a the predetermined target

pressure;

ablating a desired tissue region, wherein the pressure in the expandable membrane during

ablation exceeds the target pressure, and is lower than approximately 20 psi; and

controllably deflating the expandable membrane.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising keeping the

expandable membrane inflated until a region proximate the expandable membrane reaches a

predetermined temperature range.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of controllably

inflating the expandable membrane to a the target pressure is performed by inflation/deflation

control means located within a first console.

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 (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the inflation/deflation control means is a Proportional Integral Derivative controller.

 (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the inflation/deflation control means further includes a pressure switch that controls an on/off valve.

 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, if the target pressure is not reached, further comprising the step of re-inflating the expandable membrane in order to reach the target pressure.

- (Cancelled)
- (Cancelled)
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ablating the desired tissue region is part of a cryoablation process.
 - 10. Cancelled

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11. (Currently Amended) A method for inflating and deflating a catheter having an

expandable membrane, the catheter being part of a catheter system including a first console, a

catheter, and an umbilical system coupling the first console to the catheter, the method

comprising the steps of:

evacuating air from the expandable membrane by creating a vacuum in the expandable

membrane;

positioning the expandable membrane within a portion of a cardiovascular system;

controllably inflating the expandable membrane proximate a desired tissue region, the

expandable membrane being inflated to a predetermined preselected target pressure level in order

to provide sufficient mechanical force against the desired tissue region;

ablating the desired tissue region, wherein the pressure in the expandable membrane

during ablation exceeds the target pressure, and is lower than approximately 20 psi; and

controllably deflating the expandable membrane.

CLAIMS 12-31: CANCELLED

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of controllably

deflating the expandable membrane includes preventing deflation until a temperature in the

balloon is higher than a predetermined temperature.

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33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of controllably

deflating the expandable membrane includes reducing adhesion between the expandable

membrane and the desired tissue region.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein reducing adhesion

includes preventing deflation until a temperature in the balloon is higher than a predetermined

temperature.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the inflation/deflation

control means is a proportional valve for controlling the delivery of fluid in order to reach and

maintain a predetermined the preselected pressure in the balloon.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the inflation/deflation

control means is a fixed volume reservoir coupled to a shutoff valve located within the first

console.

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